

MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REGULATORY GUIDE FOR THE SOUTHEAST

ALASKA/YAKUTAT WINTER TROLL FISHERY

(October 11, 2002 through April 14, 2003)



by
Southeast Region Troll Management Staff

Regional Information Report¹ No. 1J02-39

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Juneau, Alaska

September 2002

¹

The Regional Information Report Series was established in 1987 to provide an information access system for all unpublished divisional reports. These reports frequently serve diverse ad hoc informational purposes or archive basic uninterpreted data. To accommodate timely reporting of recently collected information, reports in this series undergo only limited internal review and may contain preliminary data; this information may be subsequently finalized and published in the formal literature. Consequently, these reports should not be cited without prior approval of the author or the Division of Commercial Fisheries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was compiled and written by the Southeast Alaska troll management staff, which includes: Brian Lynch (regional troll management biologist), Pattie Skannes (assistant troll management biologist), and Jason Shull (assistant troll management biologist). Cleo Brylinsky (groundfish biologist) assisted with the groundfish regulation section of this report. Scott Kelley (regional management biologist) edited the final document and Cori Cashen (publications specialist) produced the final report.

FOREWORD

This plan summarizes the management approach the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) will employ to manage the Southeast Alaska/Yakutat commercial salmon winter troll fishery during the 2003 season, provides catch data from the previous winter troll season, and provides some of the regulatory information formerly found in the winter troll regulatory guide.

Beginning in 1998 the department reformatted the troll commercial fishing regulations based on the troll regulatory guide model. As a result, most of the former regulatory guide information is now found in the 2000–2003 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Commercial Fishing Regulations (formally called Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Area Commercial Salmon and Miscellaneous Finfish Regulations) available at all Southeast Alaska ADF&G area offices.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 2 |
| FOREWORD | 2 |
| MANAGEMENT PLAN | 4 |
| 2002 WINTER TROLL HARVEST | 4 |
| REGULATION SUMMARY..... | 4 |
| FISHING AREAS AND TIMES | 5 |
| CLOSED WATERS | 5 |
| GEAR AND VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS AND REGISTRATION | 6 |
| SIZE AND LANDING REQUIREMENTS | 6 |
| SPORT FISHING AND CHARTERING FROM A REGISTERED TROLL VESSEL | 6 |
| REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT | 7 |
| FISHERY CONTACTS..... | 8 |
| ADDITIONAL TROLL INFORMATION | 8 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Table 1. Winter troll chinook harvest, October 11, 2001 through April 14, 2002..... | 9 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Figure 1. Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery areas. For a full description of areas closed to winter trolling, see page 5 of this guide. | 12 |
| Figure 2. Southeast Alaska areas open to lingcod retention by trollers during the winter troll season.. | 13 |

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The winter chinook salmon troll fishery in Southeast Alaska is managed in accordance with the Alaska Board of Fisheries Troll Management Plan [5 AAC 29.080] and the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). The 2003 Southeast and Yakutat commercial winter troll season begins October 11, 2002 and will continue through April 14, 2003, or until a total of 45,000 chinook salmon are harvested [5 AAC 29.070 (b)(1) and 5 AAC 29.080 (a)]. Chinook salmon caught beginning October 11, 2002 count towards the 2003 quota for all of Southeast Alaska. There is currently no quota established for the overall 2003 season; however, the winter troll fishery will be managed so the harvest of chinook salmon does not exceed 45,000 fish, with a guideline harvest range of 43,000 to 47,000 fish [5 AAC 29.080 (a)]. Any fish less than the 45,000 fish “cap” which are not harvested during the winter fishery are available in the spring and summer fisheries. The 45,000 fish cap has not been reached prior to April 14 in any year since 1995, when the cap went into effect.

2002 WINTER TROLL HARVEST

The 2002 winter troll chinook catch was 29,429 fish, with a 6.7% Alaska hatchery contribution. This compares to a harvest of 22,582 fish with an Alaska hatchery contribution of 10% in 2001, and a 1997–2001 average catch of 28,678 fish. A total of 293 permits were fished in 2002. This compares to 322 in 2001 and a 1996–2000 average of 300 permits fished. Catch and effort in 2002 were highest in October, November, March, and April in most districts (Table 1).

REGULATION SUMMARY

All regulations pertaining to the Southeast Alaska winter trolling season are listed in the 2000–2003 Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Commercial Fishing Regulations. The following list is a guide to the pertinent winter regulatory subsections. Some of these regulations may be changed at any time by emergency order. Copies of emergency orders and regulation books are available at all Southeast Alaska Fish and Game area offices.

Fishing Areas and Times

The winter troll fishery is confined to the area east of a line that extends from the southernmost tip of Point Manby to the easternmost tip of Ocean Cape and then continues along the surf line as described in [5 AAC 29.020 (b)] (Figure 1). Trolling is also allowed within 500 yards of the terminus of any salmon stream during the winter season [5 AAC 29.150 (a)(1)].

Closed Waters

Salmon trolling is permitted in all previously mentioned areas and at all times during the winter season except as indicated in [5 AAC 29.080 (b)]. NOTE: the areas listed below in bold type were inadvertently left out of the 2000–2003 troll regulations. However, these areas do remain closed to winter trolling.

1. **District 1**
 - A. **Behm Canal (Section 1-D): is closed between a line from Nose Point to Snail Point and a line from Cactus Point to Point Eva.**
2. **District 8**
 - A. **Stikine River: waters inside a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point, along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough, to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, to the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island, to the northern end of Coney Island, to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore are closed.**
3. **District 11**
 - A. Section 11-A is closed except those waters south of the latitude of Outer Point and east of a line from Salisbury Point to Point Tantallon.
 - B. Section 11-B is open throughout the winter season except those waters north of the latitude of Graves Point Light are open only from October 11 through March 31.
4. **District 15**
 - A. Section 15-B is closed.

Note: Except for those areas specified in this section, all remaining waters listed in the “Closed Waters” section of the regulation book are open to trolling during the winter troll season.

Gear and Vessel Specifications and Registration

- Troll vessels must be registered prior to fishing for the calendar year [5 AAC 29.115].
- For troll gear specifications and operations see [5 AAC 29.120].
- Troll vessels must be identified as specified in [5 AAC 39.119] and [5 AAC 29.125].

Size and Landing Requirements

Chinook salmon caught in the troll fishery must be equal to or greater than 28 inches in total length and the heads of all adipose-fin clipped salmon must remain attached until the fish is sold. For further specifications see [5 AAC 29.140].

Sport Fishing and Chartering From a Registered Troll Vessel

1. A person may sport fish from a registered commercial salmon troll or power troll vessel [5 AAC 47.041 (a)]. A troll gurdy may be used as a downrigger in conjunction with a sport fishing rod to sport fish for salmon. A person who sport fishes from a vessel licensed for commercial fishing, other than a charter vessel, in waters **closed to commercial salmon fishing** shall, immediately upon bringing a salmon onboard, **mark the salmon by removing its dorsal fin** [5 AAC 47.041 (c)]. This regulation also applies when a person is sport fishing for a **species closed to commercial trolling**. Sport fishing from a commercially licensed vessel while commercially caught salmon are in possession is illegal in waters closed to commercial fishing [5 AAC 47.041(d)]. The sport fishing season is open year-round for all species except as follows: halibut open February 1–December 31 and lingcod open May 1–November 30. For more detailed information on sport fishing regulations, refer to the Sport Fishing Regulations Summary for 2001 for Southeast Alaska, available at any Southeast ADF&G area office.
2. A registered troll vessel may also be registered as a charter vessel. Charter boat registration applications are available at Fish and Game offices. A vessel registered both as a commercial troller and as a charter vessel may not be used to troll commercially and charter in the same day [5 AAC 75.995(8)].

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL TROLL BYCATCH OF GROUND FISH AND HALIBUT

For a complete guide to the Southeast Alaska groundfish regulations refer to the 2001–2002 Groundfish Fishery Commercial Fishery Regulation book available at all Southeast ADF&G area offices.

1. Commercial halibut may be legally retained only by trollers holding individual fishing quota shares (IFQs) during the open season for halibut, March 18–November 18 (50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 679.4 (d)) and 5 AAC 28.133 (c). Trollers holding unfilled IFQs are required to retain any halibut taken incidentally while trolling (50 CFR 679.7 (f)(11)). If trollers have no more than 500 pounds of halibut onboard and if landed concurrently with a legal landing of salmon, they can offload their catch without having to give a 6-hour notice to the National Marine Fisheries Service (50 CFR 679.5 (l)(1)(iv)). Trollers fishing for salmon in Sitka Sound may retain halibut bycatch if they hold IFQs (50 CFR 300.63). Halibut taken incidentally while trolling for salmon should be reported on the same troll ticket with the salmon catch.
2. Lingcod greater than 27" may be taken as bycatch in the commercial salmon troll fishery through November 30. (5 AAC 28.113 (c)) (Figure 2). There are no troll bycatch limits, so trollers may retain unlimited amounts of lingcod over 27" in length. When the troll lingcod quota is reached for each management area, trollers will be required to release all untagged lingcod back into the water. Inseason closures may occur on short notice and will be announced by news release. Lingcod must be delivered with the external gender indicators intact and head-on until further notice (5 AAC 28.173(g)).

Trollers are requested to retain tagged lingcod of any size and to notify the nearest Fish and Game office at the time of delivery so the fish may be sampled (in Sitka, contact Mike Vaughn, 304 Lake Street, Room 103; phone- 907-747-6688). The date, exact location, and depth should be recorded. A reward will be given to those who turn in tagged lingcod with the necessary catch information. **Tags must be left on tagged sublegal lingcod or any tagged lingcod caught out of season, and fish should be landed in the round.**

Trollers are reminded that the waters of Sitka Sound are closed permanently to the taking of lingcod (5 AAC 28.150 (a)). Groundfish may not be taken in waters off Cape Edgecumbe enclosed by a box defined as 56°55.5' N. lat., 56°57' N. lat., 135°54' W. long., and 135°57' W. long. (5 AAC 28.150 (c)). This area is commonly known as “the pinnacles.” Trollers fishing in this area may not have groundfish or halibut onboard.

3. Full retention of all rockfish is required when fishing in the Northern Southeast Inside and Southern Southeast Inside subdistricts (5 AAC 28.171(f)). These areas correspond closely with salmon Districts 101–115. A permit holder must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish taken. There are no bycatch limits, except for Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR), as described below.
4. Full retention of Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR) is required in all state waters. All CFEC permit holders must retain, weigh, and report all DSR taken. All DSR in excess of 10% round weight, of all target species on board the vessel must be weighed and reported as bycatch overage on an ADF&G fish ticket. All proceeds from the sale of excess DSR bycatch shall be surrendered to the state (5 AAC 28.171 (a)). The seven species of rockfish in the DSR assemblage are yelloweye, quillback, canary, rosethorn, copper, china, and tiger rockfish.

5. Trollers are allowed to longline for groundfish and troll for salmon on the same trip as long as salmon are not onboard the vessel in an area closed to trolling and the fisher has both a commercial salmon permit and a commercial longline permit. Longliners are reminded to submit a logbook with their fish ticket.

FISHERY CONTACTS

The following commercial fisheries management staff may be contacted regarding this report:

Ketchikan

Don House
Scott Walker
2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907) 225-5195

Juneau

Jason Shull
Scott Kelley
P.O. Box 240020
Douglas, Alaska 99824-0020
(907) 465-4250

Haines

Randy Bachman
P.O. Box 330
Haines, Alaska 99827-0330
(907) 766-2830

Petersburg

Brian Lynch
Troy Thynes
P.O. Box 667
Petersburg, Alaska 99833-0667
(907) 772-3801

Yakutat

Gordie Woods
P.O. Box 49
Yakutat, Alaska 99689-0049
(907) 784-3255

Sitka

Pattie Skannes
Bill Davidson
Dave Gordon
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
(907) 747-6688

ADDITIONAL TROLL INFORMATION

For weekly updated troll information, call the 24-hour information lines in the Douglas Office at (907) 465-TROL (8765) or the Sitka office at (907) 747-TROL (8765). In addition, the following telephone numbers may be called during the troll season to obtain recorded announcements concerning areas open to trolling.

Ketchikan-(907) 225-6870

Petersburg-(907) 772-3700

For further catch and regulatory information you may access the commercial troll website at:

<http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/region1/finfish/salmon/troll/trolinfo.htm>

Table 1. Winter troll chinook harvest, October 11, 2001 through April 14, 2002. Weeks and districts with less than 3 permits fished are omitted due to confidentiality considerations. Therefore, the total may not reflect the sum of the weekly catches shown.

| District | Week | Dates | Number of Chinook | Number of Permits |
|------------------|------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 101 Total | | | 57 | 7 |
| 102 | 3 | Jan.13-19 | 135 | 4 |
| 102 Total | | | 319 | 7 |
| 103 Total | | | 219 | 7 |
| 104 | 14 | Mar.31-Apr.6 | 42 | 3 |
| 104 Total | | | 270 | 3 |
| 105 | 47 | Nov.18-24 | 10 | 3 |
| | 50 | Dec.9-15 | 4 | 3 |
| | 7 | Feb.10-16 | 78 | 4 |
| | 8 | Feb.17-23 | 89 | 3 |
| | 9 | Feb.24-Mar.2 | 53 | 4 |
| | 12 | Mar.17-23 | 53 | 4 |
| | 13 | Mar.24-30 | 92 | 7 |
| | 14 | Mar.31-Apr.6 | 408 | 11 |
| | 15 | Apr.7-13 | 351 | 15 |
| | 16 | April 14 | 54 | 5 |
| 105 Total | | | 1,261 | 32 |
| 106 | 45 | Nov.4-10 | 17 | 3 |
| | 2 | Jan.6-12 | 11 | 3 |
| | 3 | Jan.13-19 | 33 | 5 |
| | 4 | Jan.20-26 | 9 | 3 |
| | 5 | Jan.27-Feb.2 | 9 | 3 |
| | 8 | Feb.17-23 | 10 | 3 |
| | 10 | Mar.3-9 | 4 | 3 |
| | 13 | Mar.24-30 | 26 | 6 |
| | 15 | Apr.7-13 | 32 | 6 |
| 106 Total | | | 276 | 24 |
| 107 Total | | | 36 | 3 |
| 108 Total | | | 89 | 17 |

-continued-

Table 1. (page 2 of 3)

| District | Week | Dates | Number of Chinook | Number of Permits |
|------------------|------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 109 | 10 | Mar.3-9 | 88 | 3 |
| | 12 | Mar.17-23 | 68 | 4 |
| | 13 | Mar.24-30 | 341 | 8 |
| | 14 | Mar.31-Apr.6 | 388 | 6 |
| | 15 | Apr.7-13 | 439 | 12 |
| | 16 | April 14 | 429 | 7 |
| 109 Total | | | 1,877 | 28 |
| 110 | 42 | Oct.14-20 | 19 | 3 |
| | 13 | Mar.24-30 | 47 | 6 |
| | 15 | Apr.7-13 | 13 | 3 |
| 110 Total | | | 236 | 18 |
| 111 Total | | | 242 | 3 |
| 113 | 41 | Oct.11-13 | 560 | 9 |
| | 42 | Oct.14-20 | 3,242 | 59 |
| | 43 | Oct.21-27 | 4,467 | 75 |
| | 44 | Oct.28-Nov.3 | 1,587 | 66 |
| | 45 | Nov.4-10 | 2,688 | 59 |
| | 46 | Nov.11-17 | 1,697 | 56 |
| | 47 | Nov.18-24 | 650 | 37 |
| | 48 | Nov.25-Dec.1 | 658 | 21 |
| | 49 | Dec.2-8 | 119 | 15 |
| | 50 | Dec.9-15 | 26 | 9 |
| | 52 | Dec.23-29 | 12 | 3 |
| | 53 | Dec.30-31 | 57 | 6 |
| | 1 | Jan.1-5 | 148 | 11 |
| | 2 | Jan.6-12 | 106 | 11 |
| | 3 | Jan.13-19 | 187 | 24 |
| | 4 | Jan.20-26 | 62 | 11 |
| | 5 | Jan.27-Feb.2 | 137 | 17 |
| | 6 | Feb.3-9 | 451 | 41 |
| | 8 | Feb.17-23 | 184 | 28 |
| | 9 | Feb.24-Mar.2 | 192 | 28 |
| | 10 | Mar.3-9 | 289 | 41 |
| | 11 | Mar.10-16 | 78 | 26 |
| | 12 | Mar.17-23 | 466 | 59 |
| | 13 | Mar.24-30 | 470 | 52 |
| | 14 | Mar.31-Apr.6 | 1,217 | 64 |
| | 15 | Apr.7-13 | 862 | 73 |
| | 16 | April 14 | 202 | 17 |
| 113 Total | | | 20,838 | 244 |

-continued-

Table 1. (page 3 of 3)

| District | Week | Dates | Number of Chinook | Number of Permits |
|--------------------|------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 114 | 3 | Jan.13-19 | 29 | 4 |
| | 5 | Jan.27-Feb.2 | 32 | 4 |
| | 6 | Feb.3-9 | 59 | 6 |
| | 8 | Feb.17-23 | 46 | 5 |
| | 9 | Feb.24-Mar.2 | 57 | 8 |
| | 10 | Mar.3-9 | 37 | 5 |
| | 12 | Mar.17-23 | 51 | 7 |
| | 13 | Mar.24-30 | 183 | 9 |
| | 14 | Mar.31-Apr.6 | 101 | 10 |
| | 15 | Apr.7-13 | 276 | 12 |
| | 16 | April 14 | 453 | 14 |
| 114 Total | | | 1,371 | 39 |
| 183 | 42 | Oct.14-20 | 96 | 5 |
| | 43 | Oct.21-27 | 71 | 9 |
| | 44 | Oct.28-Nov.3 | 36 | 6 |
| | 45 | Nov.4-10 | 29 | 9 |
| | 46 | Nov.11-17 | 42 | 7 |
| | 47 | Nov.18-24 | 15 | 4 |
| | 48 | Nov.25-Dec.1 | 26 | 5 |
| | 50 | Dec.9-15 | 11 | 3 |
| | 3 | Jan.13-19 | 63 | 6 |
| | 4 | Jan.20-26 | 30 | 7 |
| | 5 | Jan.27-Feb.2 | 40 | 13 |
| | 6 | Feb.3-9 | 29 | 9 |
| | 7 | Feb.10-16 | 15 | 5 |
| | 8 | Feb.17-23 | 40 | 8 |
| | 9 | Feb.24-Mar.2 | 22 | 10 |
| | 10 | Mar.3-9 | 97 | 12 |
| | 11 | Mar.10-16 | 197 | 17 |
| | 12 | Mar.17-23 | 417 | 20 |
| | 13 | Mar.24-30 | 272 | 20 |
| | 14 | Mar.31-Apr.6 | 141 | 11 |
| | 15 | Apr.7-13 | 561 | 12 |
| | 16 | April 14 | 35 | 3 |
| 183 Total | | | 2,312 | 48 |
| Grand Total | | | 29,429 | 300 |

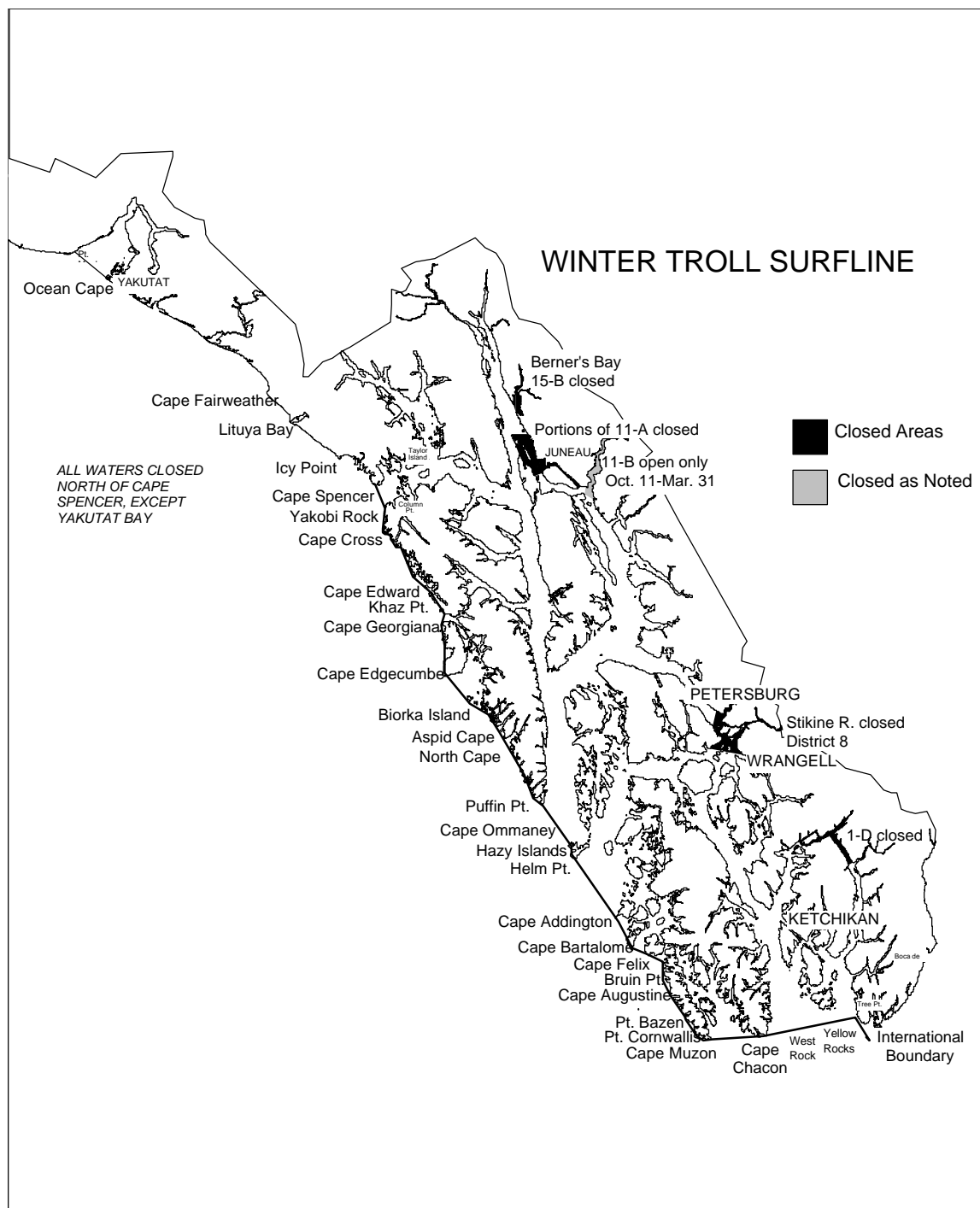


Figure 1. Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery areas. For a full description of areas closed to winter trolling, see page 5 of this guide. **Note:** the Stikine River and Behm Canal closed waters were inadvertently left out of the 2000–2003 troll regulations, however, these areas do remain closed to winter trolling.

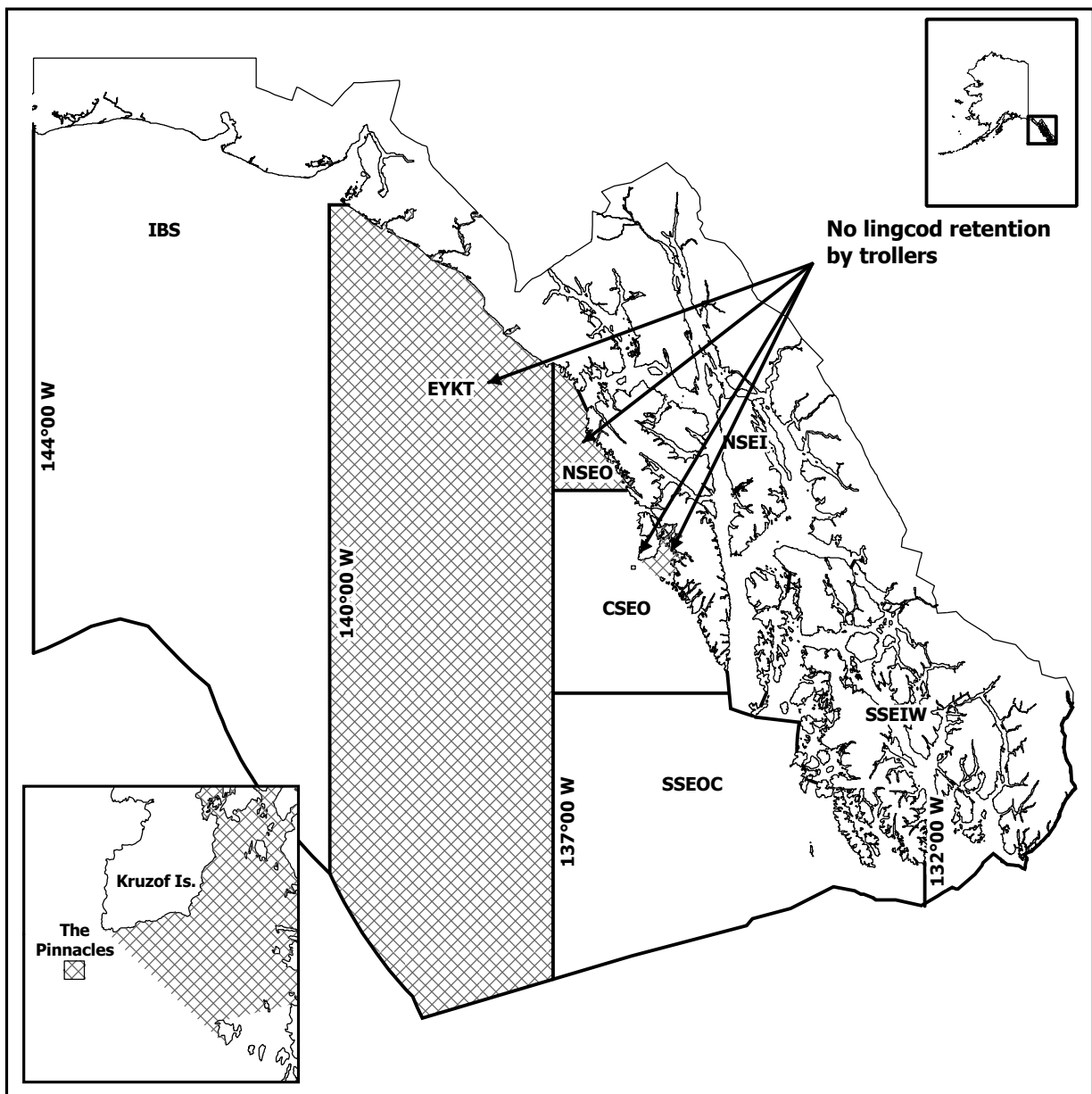


Figure 2. Southeast Alaska areas open to lingcod retention by trollers during the winter troll season. All areas will close to lingcod retention on December 1, 2002, unless closed earlier by emergency order. See pages 7–8 of this guide for further regulations pertaining to groundfish retention.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfield Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-2440.